



National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices

Chair's Message

MESSAGE 2026-#2

April 28, 2026

Neil Boudreau

NCUTCD Chair

We are now less than two months away from our Midyear Meeting in Mobile, Alabama and I hope that everyone is making their travel plans and registering for the meeting. This message provides an update on our progress, a preview of the Midyear Meeting, and highlights several areas where we are working to improve clarity, coordination, and overall effectiveness in our processes. In addition, I have added a few new features to the Chairs Message to keep everyone up to date on what is happening with the National Committee and our members.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Marc Jacobson, PE, PTOE, on his election as Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) International Vice President. Marc has been an invaluable contributor to NCUTCD on the RRLRT technical committee, as our Webmaster, and an active leader within the ITE Texas District, where he was named Transportation Professional of the Year in 2025.

Marc will continue serving as Webmaster through 2026 but anticipates needing additional support as he transitions into his new role. If you have experience in website or database management and are interested in contributing, please feel free to reach out to Marc or me.

NCUTCD Membership Update

Since the January Annual Meeting, we have seen several changes in our NCUTCD membership. Since that time, we have had 6 submit their resignation from NCUTCD, 1 member has passed on, and the Executive Board has approved 12 new technical committee members at the March 24th meeting. Here is a recap of the comings and goings, and an acknowledgement of the member we have lost.

Resignations:

John Dinning (RR, former chair)

Jason Field (RR)

Doug Hansen (SIG)

Robert Kurka (RW)

Mark Nahra (MKG)

Dave Woodin (MKG, former chair)

In Memoriam

Peter Rusch (April 16, 2026)

Pete was a long-time member of NCUTCD, serving on C&M (precursor to TTC), GMI, and as chair of Bicycle TC in 2000-2001. He dedicated more than 35 years to the Wisconsin

Department of Transportation, followed by service with FHWA. He contributed to the profession through committee work and research panels, and was a strong advocate for roadway safety. Please keep his family in your thoughts. If you would like to share a memory of Pete with his family, there is a Tribute Wall linked to his obituary at: [Obituary information for Peter Frederick Rusch](#)

New Members:

Anthony Buczek (MKG)
Steve Gault (SIG)
Farid Javandel (BIK)
Megan Leonard (RR)
Deven Narayan (GMI)
Eric Peterson (GMI)

Tim Rusteika (RR)
Ben Saylor (RW)
Paul Schmidbauer (RW)
Jon Whitaker (SIG)
Wing Wong (TTC)
Benjamin Worsham (SIG)

2026 Midyear Meeting Overview

Dates: June 24–26, 2026

Location: Mobile, Alabama

Venue: Arthur R. Outlaw Mobile Convention Center

Hotel: Renaissance Riverview Hotel (connected via elevated covered walkway)

Key Deadlines:

- Early Registration Ends: May 15th
- Hotel Reservations: May 30th (room block is nearly full)

Registration: <https://ncutcd.org/meetings/2026-midyear-meeting/>

Additional information, including details on the ARTBA Summer Classic, will be shared as it becomes available.

General Session Planning:

We are planning a focused agenda with time dedicated to Technical Committee (TC), Joint Committee (JC), and Joint Task Force (JTF) presentations on proposed changes.

While the Spring 2026 cycle included seven new items, several previously reviewed proposals may be ready for Council consideration. Our goal is to provide sufficient time for discussion while maintaining a predictable schedule. At this time, we anticipate concluding Council business by early Friday afternoon, likely before noon.

To best prepare for General Session, our Council Members and Associate Members are encouraged to review materials in advance and come prepared to engage in discussion.

While final reconciled documents are distributed the evening before the General Session, familiarity with key topics helps support a more efficient and productive meeting.

2026 Spring Review Cycle

The Spring 2026 (26A) sponsor review cycle closed on April 17, and a total of 643 comments were received across the seven proposed changes. We appreciate the time and effort that Sponsoring Organizations and members dedicated to this review.

Technical Committees, Joint Committees, and Joint Task Forces are now working to reconcile comments and prepare updated proposals for the Midyear Meeting.

Here is the link to the individual comments received on the 7 proposals, along with the proposals: <https://ncutcd.org/meetings/2026-annual-meeting/sponsor-comments-to-technical-committees-and-joint-task-forces-recommendations/>

Some proposals generated a significant level of feedback, including 26A-MKG-01 - Interim Approval for Orange Color as a Supplemental Marking. As this represents a new area for NCUTCD, there is no precedent for this action and thus, no formal operating procedure (OP) for which Council to act on. In the absence of a formal operating procedure, OP-VI-E would apply and that calls for the NCUTCD Chair to "develop a plan for the Council action."

After reviewing the sponsor comments, my plan is to take a thoughtful approach—focusing first on addressing stakeholder input and addressing the concerns that our members have raised. Before any potential action on advancing the proposed Interim Approval language, we need to ensure that this recommendation is well understood and supported.

Chair Report

As I continue in my role as NCUTCD Chair, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of our committee leaders and members, including Executive Secretary Richard Moeur. These discussions have highlighted several areas where additional clarity and coordination can help strengthen our overall process.

Development of Proposed Changes:

Proposals for MUTCD content changes often require coordination across multiple committees. To support a more efficient process:

- Originating TC/JC/JTFs should complete internal review and approval before advancing proposals.
- Coordination with other affected committees is expected, but only once the originating TC/JC/JTF has voted to approve the proposal.
- Joint Task Force members can be valuable resources for gathering cross-committee input.

These steps can help improve proposal quality, building consensus and reducing the need for rework later in the process.

Large-Scale Initiatives:

Several committees are working on more complex efforts, including updates to MUTCD definitions and Rules of the Road content. Because these efforts span multiple Parts, they are best advanced incrementally.

Committees are encouraged to:

- Develop manageable proposals that build toward a broader objective
- Share the overall framework during General Session to provide context
- Advance items to Council when the full scope of changes can be clearly understood

Sponsor Organization Participation:

One of the essential building blocks to the success of NCUTCD is the autonomy of our Sponsoring Organizations and having that unique perspective on items that are sent out for sponsor review. Participation from Sponsoring Organizations remains a key component of our process. Recent cycles have shown that not all organizations have been providing input on every proposal.

We recognize the time commitment involved and appreciate the efforts of those who do participate. At the same time, continued engagement across all Sponsoring Organizations helps ensure that proposed changes benefit from a broad range of perspectives and supports the effectiveness of our consensus-based approach.

General Session of NCUTCD Council:

I will continue to work to get a better understanding of the time commitment needed for the General Sessions. While we do not want to rush things and lose the consensus-building process that helps us get to a 2/3 majority approval for proposed changes, I also understand the uncertainty about Friday's schedule and making travel arrangements can be stressful.

NCUTCD Leadership Updates

We have had several leadership transitions since my 1st Chair's Message on February 17th:

- John Dinning has resigned from NCUTCD and JoNette Kuhnau has assumed the role of Chair for the Railroad and Light Rail Transit Technical Committee
- Nicole Jackson has moved to Vice Chair of Railroad and Light Rail Transit
- Kevin Schumacher is now serving as Secretary for Railroad and Light Rail Transit
- Tricia Kovacs has taken the role of Secretary for the Rules of the Road Joint Task Force

Congratulations to all and thank you for your willingness to serve in these leadership roles. We wish John Dinning all the best as he steps away from NCUTCD.

The current leadership roster is listed below:

Type	Unit	Chair	Vice-Chair	Secretary
Technical Committee	RW Signs	Erika Lindeberg	James Sullivan	Sonia LaGrand Wes Pierce
	GMI Signs	Jason Hyatt	Ryan Hoyt	Heather Schmidt Roxane Mukai
	Markings	Paul Carlson	Jody Colvin	Tom Grant James Kratz
	Signals	John Hibbard	Matt Duncan	Dee Taylor
	TTC	Ryan Lancaster	Marc Lipschultz	Christina Bennett Adam Leigh
	Railroad	JoNette Kuhnau	Nicole Jackson	Kevin Schumacher
	Bicycles	Rock Miller	Christy Staudt	Stewart Robertson
Joint Committee	Research	Bryan Katz	Neal Hawkins	Mike Tantillo
	Edit	Bill Lambert	Robert Weber	Jonathan Upchurch
Joint Task Force	CAV	Roxane Mukai	Amanda Hamm	Melodie El-Zine
	Pedestrians	Randy McCourt	Lee Austin	Amanda Purcell
	Roundabouts	Scott Zehngraft	Brian Walsh	Anna Mermelstein Tyrel Murfitt
	Rules of the Road	Ronnie Bell	Robert Saylor	Tricia Kovacs
Admin	NCUTCD	Neil Boudreau	Bill Lambert	Richard Moeur

Parting Thoughts

The Executive Board has begun discussing future Midyear Meeting scheduling and potential opportunities to collaborate with partner organizations.

While there is interest in aligning meetings with other sponsoring organizations, these opportunities must be balanced with the structure of our sponsor review cycles and the availability of our volunteer members. Maintaining sufficient time for review and reconciliation remains an important consideration.

Where alignment is feasible, such as the planned 2027 Midyear Meeting in Reno held in conjunction with the ITE Western and Mountain Districts Meeting, we will continue to explore those opportunities. At the same time, our priority remains supporting a process that allows our members to contribute effectively.

As always, I welcome your feedback and engagement. Please feel free to reach out at Chair@NCUTCD.org. Thank you for your continued commitment to NCUTCD and the work we do together.